

**Press Release: Tips on How to Safely Use and Dispose of Hazardous Household Products
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: _____

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(MUNICIPAL RECYCLING DEPARTMENT NAME HERE) Offers Tips on How to Safely Use and Dispose of Hazardous Household Products

A wide variety of hazardous chemicals found in your kitchen, bathroom, closets and other places around your home – cleaning fluids, disinfectants, furniture polish, paints, pesticides and even some beauty supplies – contain potentially harmful chemicals. The **(MUNICIPAL RECYCLING DEPARTMENT NAME HERE)** is urging you and other local residents to handle them with care and recycle them responsibly.

“We sometimes don’t give them much thought, but many of the chemicals we use every day are corrosive, flammable or toxic and need to be handled with extra caution,” said **(MUNICIPAL RECYCLING OFFICIAL NAME AND TITLE HERE)**. “A little effort can make a big difference in protecting our loved ones from harm.”

A recent National Poison Control Center survey found that of nearly one million reported exposures to hazardous household products, more than half involved children under the age of six. Household chemicals were also the cause of more than 95 percent of reported poisoning deaths that were not attributable to pharmaceuticals.

“We are all responsible for making sure that our children, as well as our pets, are not exposed to avoidable risks,” said **(MUNICIPAL RECYCLING OFFICIAL LAST NAME HERE)**, who offered the following helpful tips on how to use, store and dispose of hazardous household products:

- Check labels for signal words that indicate the degree of potential dangers and health effects. “Caution” and “warning” mean the product can cause skin irritation or vomiting. “Danger” refers to a more severe health threat such as skin burns and ulcers; and “poison” means the item is highly toxic and can be fatal if ingested. Read the product labels before you buy them and ask retailers if safer alternatives are available.

- Be sure to use products as directed. Never mix chemicals and avoid breathing their vapors or mists. If you come in contact with a chemical or spill it on clothing, look on the product label for instructions on how to treat a person and/or wash affected areas after improper exposure.
- If you have no use for leftover paints, look for opportunities to share them with friends, neighbors, shelters or other organizations instead of throwing them away.
- Store hazardous chemicals in a locked cabinet and always keep them in their original containers. Never leave hazardous products out in the open or unattended, and always keep items out of reach of children. Poisonings usually occur while the product is in use.
- Never throw hazardous household products in the trash. Chemicals that wind up in landfills and incinerators can contaminate groundwater and pollute the air. **(MUNICIPALITY HERE)** collects hazardous household products for recycling on a **(FREQUENCY OR MODE HERE)** basis. **(ADDITIONAL COLLECTION DETAILS HERE)**

To learn more about hazardous household products and how to safely manage and recycle them in **(MUNICIPALITY HERE)**, call **(LOCAL PHONE)** or visit www.earth911.org